53320-2

LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

APRIL 1985

RELEASE DATE:
MAY 24, 1985

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY APRIL 1985				REVISED MARCH 1985				REVISED APRIL 1984			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,928.8	1,712.0	216.8	11.2	1,935.5	1,705.0	230.5	11.9	1,941.6	1,746.7	194.9	10.0
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	62.7	57.2	5.5	8.8	62.9	56.7	6.2	9.8	62.3	57.3	5.0	8.1
Baton Rouge 2/	250.8	227.3	23.5	9.4	251.0	226.7	24.3	9.7	248.6	228.5	20.1	8.1
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	84.1	74.8	9.3	11.1	85.3	75.2	10.1	11.8	84.8	75.3	9.5	11.3
Lafayette 4/	109.6	100.3	9.3	8.5	109.8	99.9	9.9	9.1	112.3	103.1	9.2	8.2
Lake Charles 5/	74.3	62.8	11.5	15.5	74.6	62.7	11.9	15.9	78.3	66.9	11.4	14.6
Monroe 6/	61.5	55.8	5.7	9.3	62.3	55.9	6.4	10.2	63.3	57.5	5.8	9.1
New Orleans 7/	568.7	503.4	65.3	11.5	571.2	504.2	67.0	11.7	577.5	525.2	52.3	9.1
Shreveport 8/	160.8	147.7	13.1	8.1	161.4	147.2	14.2	8.8	160.2	147.7	12.5	7.8

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,586,700 for April, a decrease of 1,800 from March and 7,100 below the April a year ago figure. Louisiana's nonagricultural employment decline for April was centered in the nonmanufacturing segment. Manufacturing payrolls were down slightly as a result of lower employment in durable goods.

This public document was published at a total cost of $1,079.79. 2,900 copies of this public document were published in this 1st printing at a cost of $1,079.79. The total cost of all printing of this document, including reprints, is $1,079.79. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Labor, Office of Employment Security, Research and Statistics Unit, P.O. Box 94094, Baton Rouge, La. 70804-9094. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertaining to labor market developments and employment trends under the authority of Part 602.6, Title 20, Chap. V. of the Code of Federal Regulations. It was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

Durable goods employment, at 85,300, was 700 lower than last month, but 3,500 higher than April a year ago. An increase in activity at sawmills and planing mills and increased production of millwork, plywood and structural members contributed to the upturn in the lumber and wood products industry. Stone, clay and glass products employment was down primarily as the result of the shutdown of a plant in the pottery and related products segment. Cutbacks in the manufacturing of fabricated structural metal products were largely responsible for the decrease in fabricated metal products employment. Electrical and electronic equipment payrolls edged up mostly as a result of increased demand for communication equipment. Transportation equipment employment was lower due to less activity at the state's shipyards and decreased production of motor vehicles and equipment. A drop in instruments and related products employment accounted for the decline in other durable goods payrolls.

Total nondurable goods employment for April, at 93,800, was up by 600 over the March level, but a drop of 4,300 workers from April a year ago. Seasonal increases in the production of fats and oils and in seafood packaging were a large factor in the increase of employment in the food and kindred products industry. The higher employment level in apparel and other textile products resulted from increased output of men's and boys' suits and coats and men's and boys' furnishings. Printing and publishing employment was down as commercial printing firms experienced less business. Less need for industrial organic chemicals was responsible for the decline in chemicals and allied products payrolls. Petroleum and coal products payrolls were up from last month due to an increase in petroleum refining.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during April was 1,407,600, down by 1,700 from the March level. Mining employment was lower due to decreased production of crude petroleum and natural gas. Construction employment moved up due in large part to payroll additions by certain miscellaneous special trade contractors. A slowdown in activity at the state's ports and cutbacks in trucking and warehousing payrolls primarily accounted for the lower level of employment in transportation and public utilities. A decline in wholesale trade was responsible for the drop in trade employment for April. Credit agencies other than banks, insurance carriers and real estate were among the segments that were instrumental in the increase of finance, insurance and real estate employment. Upturns in health services and memberships organizations contributed to the increase in services employment. Government employment was lower as a result of decreases in state and local government.

Average weekly earning of Louisiana's 126,700 production workers in manufacturing decreased from $428.08 in March to $425.36 in April, a decrease of $2.72, but an increase of $4.52 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were six cents higher in April than last month and $0.38 more than April of last year. Weekly hours averaged 40.9 for the current month, down by 0.5 hours from March's figure.

Estimated total unemployment in the state for April amounted to 216,800, a decrease of 13,700 from the March level of 230,500. The unemployment rate for the current month was 11.2 percent, a decrease of 0.7 percentage points below last month's rate, but 1.2 percentages points higher than April of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for April was 7.1 percent compared to 7.5 percent in March and 7.6 percent in April of last year. Louisiana's civilian labor force decreased from 1,935,500 in March to 1,928,800 in April, a decrease of 6,700. Total employment, at 1,712,000, was up by 7,000 from last month, but 34,700 lower than April a year ago.

Louisiana's unemployment rate will probably remain close to the current level for the next month. Manufacturing employment should increase during the next month or two. Employment in finance, insurance and real estate, construction, trade, and transportation and public utilities may increase in the early summer months.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Quachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change from March 1985	Net Change from April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,586.7	1,588.5	1,593.8	- 1.8	- 7.1
MINING	78.7	80.0	80.3	- 1.3	- 1.6
Oil and Gas Extraction	75.6	77.0	77.2	- 1.4	- 1.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.1	3.0	3.1	+ 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	108.4	108.2	120.2	+ 0.2	- 11.8
MANUFACTURING	179.1	179.2	179.9	- 0.1	- 0.8
Durable Goods	85.3	86.0	81.8	- 0.7	+ 3.5
Lumber and Wood Products	13.4	13.2	13.5	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Furniture and Fixtures	1.0	1.0	0.7	0	+ 0.3
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.6	7.9	8.1	- 0.3	- 0.5
Primary Metal Industries	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	12.0	12.4	12.8	- 0.4	- 0.8
Machinery, Except Electrical	10.3	10.3	9.8	0	+ 0.5
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	11.4	11.3	9.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.6
Transportation Equipment	23.4	23.6	21.1	- 0.2	+ 2.3
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.4	2.5	2.4	- 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	93.8	93.2	98.1	+ 0.6	- 4.3
Food & Kindred Products	19.6	19.2	21.1	+ 0.4	- 1.5
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.0	8.9	9.4	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Paper & Allied Products	11.3	11.3	11.5	0	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	10.1	10.2	10.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products	28.1	28.2	29.3	- 0.1	- 1.2
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.0	11.7	13.1	+ 0.3	- 1.1
Petroleum Refining	11.1	10.8	12.1	+ 0.3	- 1.0
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	116.5	116.8	117.8	- 0.3	- 1.3
Railroad Transportation	7.3	7.3	7.4	0	- 0.1
Transportation, ex. Railroads	67.2	67.6	67.9	- 0.4	- 0.7
Communication & Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Ser.	42.0	41.9	42.5	+ 0.1	- 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	379.2	379.9	377.7	- 0.7	+ 1.5
Wholesale Trade	94.6	95.2	93.8	- 0.6	+ 0.8
Retail Trade	284.6	284.7	283.9	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	58.0	57.5	58.9	+ 0.5	- 0.9
Food Stores	53.8	54.1	51.7	- 0.3	+ 2.1
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	33.1	32.7	31.9	+ 0.4	+ 1.2
Eating & Drinking Places	85.6	85.9	86.4	- 0.3	- 0.8
Other Retail Trade	54.1	54.5	55.0	- 0.4	- 0.9
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.9	83.5	82.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
Banking	27.5	27.4	27.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
SERVICES	313.1	312.6	312.0	+ 0.5	+ 1.1
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.2	22.1	22.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Other Services	290.9	290.5	289.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.2
GOVERNMENT	327.8	328.3	323.1	- 0.5	+ 4.7
Federal	34.6	34.5	34.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
State and Local	293.2	293.8	288.8	- 0.6	+ 4.4
State	102.4	102.7	105.1	- 0.3	- 2.7
Local	190.8	191.1	183.7	- 0.3	+ 7.1

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$425.36	$428.08	$420.84	40.9	41.4	42.0	$10.40	$10.34	$10.02
Durable Goods	389.21	395.65	378.72	40.5	41.0	41.3	9.61	9.65	9.17
Lumber & Wood Products	298.19	300.20	288.28	39.6	38.0	38.8	7.53	7.90	7.43
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	356.07	370.58	390.53	39.0	40.5	43.2	9.13	9.15	9.04
Fabricated Metal Products	399.07	396.98	370.98	41.7	41.5	40.5	9.57	9.52	9.16
Machinery, ex. Electrical	394.87	445.55	374.26	38.3	42.8	39.9	10.31	10.41	9.38
Electric & Electronic Equip.	449.34	423.06	428.83	41.3	40.1	42.5	10.88	10.55	10.09
Transportation Equipment	429.47	442.24	456.62	40.1	41.1	43.2	10.71	10.76	10.57
Nondurable Goods	465.75	463.98	462.01	41.4	41.8	42.7	11.25	11.10	10.82
Food & Kindred Products	284.59	287.65	260.48	38.2	38.2	37.0	7.45	7.53	7.04
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	199.81	212.00	198.97	37.7	39.7	41.8	5.30	5.34	4.76
Paper & Allied Products	549.91	538.00	534.69	43.3	42.8	43.4	12.70	12.57	12.32
Printing & Publishing	360.36	363.53	349.44	38.5	39.3	38.4	9.36	9.25	9.10
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	635.10	632.49	647.03	43.5	43.5	44.5	14.60	14.54	14.54
Petroleum & Coal Products	682.58	674.50	667.80	47.6	47.4	50.4	14.34	14.23	13.25
Petroleum Refining	705.15	698.88	680.74	48.1	48.0	50.5	14.66	14.56	13.48
MINING	554.76	557.14	537.99	49.4	49.7	47.4	11.23	11.21	11.35
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	474.71	477.92	460.52	39.2	39.4	39.7	12.11	12.13	11.60
BANKING	242.94	242.68	236.01	37.9	37.8	39.4	6.41	6.42	5.99

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 126,700 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 103,200 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 04 85				REVISED 03 85			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	24,400	21,525	2,875	11.7	24,350	21,200	3,150	13.0
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	6,425	5,100	1,325	20.5	6,450	5,025	1,425	22.0
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	10,675	9,100	1,575	14.8	10,825	9,025	1,800	16.7
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	12,950	10,350	2,600	20.1	12,850	10,000	2,850	22.1
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	12,625	10,975	1,650	13.1	12,600	10,900	1,700	13.5
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	7,300	6,550	750	10.3	7,275	6,425	850	11.6
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	5,100	4,525	575	11.1	5,175	4,450	725	13.9
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,850	4,425	425	8.9	4,625	4,175	450	9.5
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	6,125	5,225	900	14.8	6,175	5,125	1,050	17.1
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,275	6,650	625	8.6	7,375	6,675	700	9.4
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,525	8,600	1,925	18.4	10,525	8,400	2,125	20.2
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	12,225	10,900	1,325	10.9	12,075	10,625	1,450	11.9
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	5,400	4,375	1,025	18.9	5,425	4,200	1,225	22.8
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,025	7,100	925	11.5	8,000	7,025	975	12.2
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	14,025	11,850	2,175	15.5	14,025	11,675	2,350	16.8
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,775	7,275	1,500	17.1	9,000	7,175	1,825	20.4
COLFAX (GRANT)	3,950	3,200	750	19.1	4,025	3,150	875	21.9
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	34,950	30,950	4,000	11.4	35,025	30,725	4,300	12.3
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	15,900	13,700	2,200	13.8	15,875	13,650	2,225	13.9
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,475	5,900	575	9.0	6,425	5,800	625	9.8
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	13,000	11,225	1,775	13.7	13,150	11,150	2,000	15.2
JENA (LASALLE)	6,450	5,775	675	10.6	6,450	5,775	675	10.6
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	21,550	20,575	975	4.5	21,475	20,400	1,075	5.0
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,850	4,850	1,000	16.9	5,600	4,575	1,025	18.4
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,250	10,625	1,625	13.2	12,475	10,575	1,900	15.2
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,300	15,675	1,625	9.4	17,550	15,675	1,875	10.7
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	14,050	12,900	1,150	8.2	13,825	12,650	1,175	8.5
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	13,300	11,825	1,475	11.1	13,250	11,700	1,550	11.8
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,350	3,950	400	9.4	4,300	3,825	475	10.9
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,975	7,825	1,150	12.8	9,075	7,700	1,375	15.3
MANY (SABINE)	8,400	7,525	875	10.5	8,475	7,500	975	11.6
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	4,275	3,825	450	10.3	4,275	3,825	450	10.6
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	11,075	9,300	1,775	16.1	11,050	9,175	1,875	16.9
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	34,675	28,625	6,050	17.4	35,075	28,450	6,625	18.9
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	33,200	28,775	4,425	13.3	33,175	28,400	4,775	14.4
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	36,650	30,650	6,000	16.4	36,850	30,400	6,450	17.5
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,300	3,000	300	9.4	3,275	2,850	425	13.1
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	7,550	6,600	950	12.5	7,550	6,475	1,075	14.3
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	25,175	21,925	3,250	12.9	24,900	21,475	3,425	13.7
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	12,425	11,050	1,375	11.1	12,425	10,925	1,500	12.1
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	14,900	12,550	2,350	15.7	15,000	12,500	2,500	16.7
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	15,625	13,425	2,200	14.1	15,650	13,325	2,325	14.8
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,700	3,550	1,150	24.2	4,675	3,350	1,325	28.3
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	3,775	3,450	325	8.8	3,775	3,425	350	9.3
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,525	4,950	575	10.3	5,600	4,975	625	11.3

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	46.0	45.6	44.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
MANUFACTURING	3.6	3.5	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	2.4	2.3	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.7	0.6	0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	2.8	2.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.5	11.4	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Retail Trade	9.2	9.1	8.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.5	2.4	2.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	3.8	3.8	3.5	0	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.4	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	9.9	9.9	9.8	0	+ 0.1
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
GOVERNMENT	12.9	12.9	12.8	0	+ 0.1
Federal	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
State and Local	10.4	10.4	10.3	0	+ 0.1
State	5.3	5.3	5.3	0	0
Local	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area during April was 46,000. This estimate is 400 more than the previous month and 1,500 more than April of last year.

Manufacturing employment totaled 3,600 in April, 100 more than last month and 200 more than this month last year. The increase was in durable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing increased 300 since last month. The increase was in construction and retail trade. Since this month last year, nonmanufacturing employment has increased 1,400. Each major segment increased in employment with the exception of mining, and it was unchanged.

Total employment should continue to increase slightly during the next thirty days, with the number of unemployed decreasing.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	216.1	215.9	212.5	+ 0.2	+ 3.6
MANUFACTURING	20.9	21.2	21.7	- 0.3	- 0.8
Durable Goods	4.1	4.2	4.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	1.0	0.9	- 0.1	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	16.8	17.0	17.5	- 0.2	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	2.0	2.1	2.0	- 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.1	12.3	13.0	- 0.2	- 0.9
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.0	1.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
MINING	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	23.0	22.1	21.3	+ 0.9	+ 1.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	10.6	10.8	10.3	- 0.2	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	52.2	52.6	51.3	- 0.4	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade	10.9	10.9	11.1	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	41.3	41.7	40.2	- 0.4	+ 1.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.3	13.3	12.7	0	+ 0.6
SERVICES	40.0	39.7	39.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
GOVERNMENT	54.9	55.0	55.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Federal	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
State and Local	52.9	53.0	53.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
State	32.2	32.4	31.6	- 0.2	+ 0.6
Local	20.7	20.6	21.4	+ 0.1	- 0.7

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$509.72	$536.59	$515.16	42.3	44.2	43.4	$12.05	$12.14	$11.87
Petro-Chemicals	669.45	709.32	684.62	44.6	46.3	46.7	15.01	15.32	14.66

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 216,100 during April was up 200 from the revised April estimate and up 3,600 over the total for last April. Manufacturing was down 300 and nonmanufacturing was up 500.

Estimated employment in manufacturing at 20,900 during April was down 300 from the revised total. Durable goods were down 100 due to less business in fabricated structural metal products. Nondurable goods were down 200 due to a seasonal drop in meat products and less business in industrial organic chemicals; however, these losses were partially offset by an increase in men's and youth's and boy's furnishings, work clothing and allied garments and in miscellaneous apparel and accessories due to more business.

Employment in nonmanufacturing at 195,200 was up 500 from March's revised total. Mining had no change. Construction was up due to more business in all three major construction groups. Transportation and public utilities were down due to seasonal decreases in trucking, local and long distance, in arrangement of transportation, and less business in radio and television broadcasting, water supply and sanitary services. Wholesale trade had no change while retail trade was down due to less business in department stores, grocery stores, household appliance stores, eating and drinking places and in fuel and ice dealers.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,500 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $509.72 in April, down $26.87 from March's revised average. Average weekly hours was down 1.9 hours and average hourly earnings were down nine cents. Less overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 227,300 during April, up 600 over March's revised estimate and down 3,500 from April of last year. Unemployment at 23,500 during April was down 800 from last month's revised estimate. April's unemployment rate was 9.6 percent compared to last month's 9.7 percent revised rate and 8.0 percent in April of last year. The comparable state unemployment rate for April was 11.2 percent. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 250,800 during April.

Students entering the labor force seeking summer work is expected to increase the unemployment and unemployment rate during the coming months.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 3,100 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 523 applicants in jobs during April.

The consumer price index for March, 1985 for all urban consumers was 318.8 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 315.3 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	61.8	62.5	60.7	- 0.7	+ 1.1
MANUFACTURING	6.7	6.5	5.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Durable Goods	4.9	4.7	3.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.6	0	+ 0.2
MINING	8.1	8.2	7.3	- 0.1	+ 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	3.1	3.1	3.3	0	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.8	7.2	7.3	- 0.4	- 0.5
Water Transportation	4.6	4.9	4.7	- 0.3	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.0	15.2	15.2	- 0.2	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	11.5	11.6	11.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.6	3.8	3.7	- 0.2	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.4	2.5	- 0.1	- 0.2
SERVICES	8.8	8.9	9.1	- 0.1	- 0.3
GOVERNMENT	11.0	11.0	10.5	0	+ 0.5
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
State and Local	10.6	10.6	10.1	0	+ 0.5
State	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Local	7.7	7.7	7.2	0	+ 0.5

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in April moved down to 61,800, a level 700 below March. A small overall increase in manufacturing was easily offset by decreases in most industry divisions in nonmanufacturing.

Employment in the manufacturing industries totaled 6,700 in April, 200 above last month's total. The increase was in fabricated metal products and ship and boatbuilding and repairing. The other industries held steady over the month. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment has increases by 1,200.

Mining showed a small downturn in oil and gas field services despite the beginning of a better season for outside work. Water transportation, adjusted downward to the lowest level in more than a year. Trade tapered off in both the wholesale and retail sectors. Finance, insurance, and real estate displayed a minor overall decrease. Services reduced employment to the lowest level in about a year and a half. More favorably, construction held steady. Government did not exhibit any change in any major segment.

Estimated unemployment in April decreased to 9,300, down 800 from March. A reduction in the number of persons in the labor force was mainly responsible. Current joblessness accounts for 11.1 percent of the labor force compared to 11.8 percent in March and 11.3 percent in April of last year. The unemployment rate of 11.1 percent in April was slightly lower than the state rate of 11.2 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.1 percent. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance totaled 2,419.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is predicted to display some overall seasonal gain. Much will depend on developments in the national and international economics. Mining and construction will likely make at least small numbers of additional hires. Retail trade is expected to increase seasonally. Unemployment is predicted to rise as the number of entrants and reentrants into the labor force increase during the summer months.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	97.4	97.6	97.7	- 0.2	- 0.3
MANUFACTURING	5.5	5.8	6.0	- 0.3	- 0.5
Durable Goods	2.2	2.3	2.2	- 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	3.3	3.5	3.8	- 0.2	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.6	1.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
MINING	16.5	16.6	16.7	- 0.1	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	5.4	5.3	5.4	+ 0.1	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.1	7.2	7.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	26.0	25.9	25.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	6.9	6.7	6.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	19.1	19.2	19.1	- 0.1	0
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.8	2.7	2.8	+ 0.1	0
Food Stores	3.1	3.2	3.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Other Retail Trade	11.3	11.4	11.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.0	4.0	4.2	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	19.6	19.5	19.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	13.3	13.3	13.1	0	+ 0.2
Federal	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
State and Local	12.5	12.5	12.3	0	+ 0.2
State	5.2	5.2	5.0	0	+ 0.2
Local	7.3	7.3	7.3	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette during April stood at 97,400, a decrease of 200 from the previous month and 300 less than from the same period a year ago. The majority of the decrease was in the manufacturing segment.

Manufacturing showed a 300 decrease from the previous month and a 500 decrease from April of 1984.

The oilfield industry continues in its slump. There is still a slowdown in drilling activities with no hope of a pickup in 1985.

Construction has remained relatively stable. There is a chance for an increase in this segment because of a decrease in interest rates.

Unemployment is expected to ease upward because of summer job applicants entering the market.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	57.9	58.1	60.0	- 0.2	- 2.1
MANUFACTURING	9.0	9.0	9.6	0	- 0.6
Durable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	8.2	8.2	8.9	0	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Chemical & Pet Products	7.3	7.3	8.0	0	- 0.7
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.3	3.6	4.3	- 0.3	- 1.0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.3	4.4	4.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.4	14.3	14.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Retail Trade	11.1	11.0	11.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.3	2.2	2.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.1	3.2	+ 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.7	2.8	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	10.9	10.8	11.3	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	11.2	11.2	10.9	0	+ 0.3
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.6	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.5	10.5	10.3	0	+ 0.2
State	4.0	4.0	3.8	0	+ 0.2
Local	6.5	6.5	6.5	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural payroll employment slipped 200 below the mid-March level to the current estimate of 57,900. This decrease was noted in the nonmanufacturing segment.

Manufacturing remained unchanged from the previous month but showed a 600 decrease from April of 1984. This decrease was in the production of chemical and petroleum products.

In the nonmanufacturing sector, there remained little change in the various cells. Construction showed the largest decrease from the previous month with a decrease of 300.

The outlook is for increasing unemployment as graduates and summer job seekers enter the labor force. Employment is not expected to increase.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.8	54.0	54.4	- 0.2	- 0.6
MANUFACTURING	7.1	7.2	7.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.1	5.0	- 0.1	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.5	3.4	- 0.1	0
MINING	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	3.1	3.3	- 0.2	- 0.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	16.0	15.9	15.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
Wholesale Trade	4.3	4.3	4.3	0	0
Retail Trade	11.7	11.6	10.7	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.1	3.1	3.0	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.8	3.7	3.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.2	4.2	4.0	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	10.6	10.5	10.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.5	4.4	4.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	9.6	9.7	11.0	- 0.1	- 1.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.0	9.1	10.4	- 0.1	- 1.4
State	4.8	4.8	4.9	0	- 0.1
Local	4.2	4.3	5.5	- 0.1	- 1.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, estimated at 53,800 during mid-April, was down 200 from the mid-March estimate of 54,000.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,100, experienced only a minimal decline of 100. The loss was in nondurable goods.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 46,700, was down 100. Construction, estimated at 2,900, was down 200. Wholesale and retail trade, estimated at 16,000, was up by 100. Services was up 100. Government was down 100. All other segments remained unchanged.

Over the next 60 days, employment is expected to remain relatively stable as educational facilities complete the spring semester while other industries begin hiring workers for summer seasonal employment. Over the same period, unemployment is expected to rise as youths enter the labor force seeking summer employment.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	533.3	534.5	544.7	- 1.2	- 11.4
MANUFACTURING	46.5	47.1	47.5	- 0.6	- 1.0
Durable Goods	23.6	24.1	23.8	- 0.5	- 0.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.0	2.4	3.0	- 0.4	- 1.0
Fabricated Metal Products	2.7	2.8	3.1	- 0.1	- 0.4
Machinery, Except Electrical	3.1	3.1	2.9	0	+ 0.2
Transportation Equipment	13.4	13.4	12.0	0	+ 1.4
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.7	8.8	7.2	- 0.1	+ 1.5
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	2.2	0	- 0.4
Nondurable Goods	22.9	23.0	23.7	- 0.1	- 0.8
Food & Kindred Products	6.5	6.6	7.2	- 0.1	- 0.7
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.7	1.6	1.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Printing & Publishing	3.7	3.8	3.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.7	4.7	4.8	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.9	4.9	5.0	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.3	0.3	0.4	0	- 0.1
MINING	20.3	20.2	19.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	31.3	31.6	37.5	- 0.3	- 6.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	46.6	46.5	48.4	+ 0.1	- 1.8
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Water Transportation	15.5	15.2	16.3	+ 0.3	- 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	141.3	141.5	138.7	- 0.2	+ 2.6
Wholesale Trade	35.2	35.3	35.9	- 0.1	- 0.7
Retail Trade	106.1	106.2	102.8	- 0.1	+ 3.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	32.0	31.9	33.0	+ 0.1	- 1.0
SERVICES	128.7	129.2	131.0	- 0.5	- 2.3
GOVERNMENT	86.6	86.5	89.1	+ 0.1	- 2.5
Federal	14.8	14.8	14.8	0	0
State and Local	71.8	71.7	74.3	+ 0.1	- 2.5
State	21.5	21.4	22.2	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Local	50.3	50.3	52.1	0	- 1.8

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**
All MANUFACTURING	$427.47	$431.36	$436.35	40.1	41.2	42.2	$10.66	$10.47	$10.34
Durable Goods	393.82	407.03	422.66	38.8	40.3	41.6	10.15	10.10	10.16
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	435.08	441.38	461.25	36.5	37.5	45.0	11.92	11.77	10.25
Fabricated Metal Products	461.70	412.07	442.30	48.6	44.5	42.9	9.50	9.26	10.31
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	381.26	398.66	385.32	37.6	39.2	39.0	10.14	10.17	9.88
Nondurable Goods	465.50	458.71	449.83	41.6	42.2	42.8	11.19	10.87	10.51
Food & Kindred Products	309.26	321.19	316.00	37.9	40.3	39.5	8.16	7.97	8.00
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	172.94	192.78	188.77	31.5	31.5	34.7	5.49	6.12	5.44
Paper & Allied Products	446.96	404.35	421.14	46.9	46.8	48.8	9.53	8.64	8.63
Printing & Publishing	364.88	365.87	360.73	41.7	42.2	41.8	8.75	8.67	8.63
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	707.74	650.61	630.55	44.4	43.1	43.1	15.94	15.10	14.63

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 30,800 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans LMA in April moved down to 533,300, a level 1,200 below March. The decrease was about equally divided between manufacturing and nonmanufacturing and was spread through many segments of each. From April of last year, the downturn amounted to 11,400.

Manufacturing employment in April totaled 46,500, less 600 than last month's total. Stone, clay and glass products suffered the biggest loss with the shutdown of an area plant. Fabricated metal products, ship and boatbuilding and repairing, food and kindred products and printing and publishing reported downturns over the month. The only increase was in apparel and other textile products which was due to the reopening of an area factory after a temporary shutdown last month. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is down 1,000.

Services showed a sizable decrease over the month, largely in business services, amusement services, and miscellaneous repair services. Partly offsetting losses, private health services added workers. Construction reduced employment in building construction and heavy construction. Trade tapered off in both the wholesale and retail sectors. More favorably, water transportation pushed up to the highest level since June of last year. Other industries in transportation were hurt by layoffs, with the largest number in air transportation. Communication moved up to the highest level in more than a year. Finance and real estate each exhibited a small increase. Mining eked out a small gain in the beginning of the best season of the year for outside work. Government was boosted by a small increase in state government.

Area production workers earned an average $427.47 a week in April, down $3.89 from last month and down $8.88 from one year ago. The drop of one hour and six minutes in average weekly hours offset the increase of $0.19 in average hourly earnings.

Estimated unemployment in April decreased to 65,300, down 1,700 from March. A reduction in the number of persons in the labor force was mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 11.5 percent of the labor force compared to 11.7 percent in March and 9.1 percent in April of last year. The unemployment rate of 11.5 percent in April was higher than the state rate of 11.2 percent and much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.1 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 18,440. Approximately 46.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; about 30.0 percent were female.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is predicted to exhibit some total gain. Much will depend on developments in the national and international economics. Mining and construction will probably expand employment during the summer months. Transportation will likely show an overall increase. Government may reflect hires of temporary summer workers. Unemployment is anticipated to rise with the summer increase in the number of entrants and reentrants into the labor force.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	April 1985*	March 1985**	April 1984**	Net Change From March 1985	Net Change From April 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	144.5	144.3	141.5	+ 0.2	+ 3.0
MANUFACTURING	22.5	22.5	22.3	0	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	18.1	18.1	17.5	0	+ 0.6
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.8	0	- 0.2
Metals and Machinery	12.2	12.2	11.1	0	+ 1.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.2	2.4	2.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	10.0	9.8	8.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Other Durable Goods	5.3	5.3	5.6	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Good	4.4	4.4	4.8	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.4	0	- 0.2
MINING	4.9	4.9	5.2	0	- 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	9.9	9.7	8.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.5	8.6	8.9	- 0.1	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	34.7	34.7	33.6	0	+ 1.1
Wholesale Trade	9.4	9.5	8.9	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	25.3	25.2	24.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.7	7.7	7.8	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	30.8	30.5	29.7	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
GOVERNMENT	25.5	25.7	25.1	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Federal	4.4	4.3	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State and Local	21.1	21.4	20.9	- 0.3	+ 0.2
State	6.6	6.8	6.6	- 0.2	0
Local	14.5	14.6	14.3	- 0.1	+ 0.2

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**	April '85*	March '85**	April '84**
All MANUFACTURING	$414.63	$416.15	$432.39	40.1	40.6	43.5	$10.34	$10.25	$9.94
Lumber and Wood Products	228.90	230.88	225.62	40.3	41.6	38.7	5.68	5.55	5.83
Metals and Machinery	419.62	420.04	409.39	40.7	41.1	42.6	10.31	10.22	9.61
Food and Kindred Products	306.77	294.88	286.75	41.4	41.3	41.2	7.41	7.14	6.96
Printing and Publishing	274.12	267.25	251.21	31.8	30.3	29.8	8.62	8.82	8.43
Petroleum and Coal Products	516.91	430.80	351.52	44.6	40.0	41.6	11.59	10.77	8.45

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 17,400 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Shreveport area increased to 144,500 in April. The revised March estimate is 144,300. Total manufacturing employment remains stable at 22,500. The nonagricultural estimate for April is 122,000, up 200 from the previous month.

The manufacturing employment estimate, at 22,500, is unchanged from the revised March total, and only 200 more than April, 1984.

Nonmanufacturing employment estimated at 122,000, shows a net gain of 200 since last month, but reflects a significant 2,800 increase from the year ago estimate. Small employment gains occurred in construction and in services during the past month and these gains were enough to offset employment losses in transportation and public utilities and in state and local government.

The Shreveport labor market area has an estimated 17,400 production workers in manufacturing. These production workers have average weekly earnings of $414.63, average weekly hours of 40.1 and average hourly earnings of $10.34.

The current civilian labor force within the Shreveport labor market area is estimated at 160,800, comprising 147,700 employed and 13,100 unemployed. This area has an unemployment rate of 8.1 percent.

Small gains are expected to continue through the month of May in total nonagricultural wage and salary employment. The most significant increase during the next month will occur in services as a result of the race track opening. A seasonal increase in unemployment is expected in June with the addition of new and reentrants into the labor force.